

ANNUAL REPORT

- of the -

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

- for the -

BELLINGHAM RURAL DISTRICT

- for the -

YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1946







The area of Bellingham Rural District remains unchanged at 246 acres (340 square miles approximately). The population according to the Registrar General's figures is 4,767, showing an increase on the previous year of 217, probably due to the return to the district of men and women demobilised from the forces.

The number of Inhabited Houses in the area at the end of 1946 according to rate books:- 1500

Rateable Value ... .. £43,242

Sum represented by penny rate ... .. £172. 13. 6.64

### SOCIAL CONDITIONS

The district is still entirely rural. The principal industry is farming, though this has been curtailed to some extent by the continue expansion of forestry work in the western side of the area round upper North Tynedale, upper Redesdale, and Warkburn. Two small collieries are still working, but quarry work is at present very limited.

### EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Live Births, legitimate	29	39	68
Live Births, illegitimate	3	2	5
Birth rate, per 1,000 of the estimated resident population			15.31
Stillbirths, legitimate	3	1	4
Stillbirths, illegitimate	1	-	1
Rate per 1,000 Total (Live and Stillbirths)			64.1
Deaths	37	27	64
Death rates per 1,000 of the estimated resident population			13.42

### DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES

Puerperal Sepis	Nil
Other Puerperal Causes	Nil





VITAL STATISTICS OF THE WHOLE DISTRICT DURING 1945 AND 1946

Year	Population estimated to middle of each year.	BIRTHS		Total Deaths registered in the District		Transferable Deaths		NET DEATHS belonging to the District			
		Under 15 years No.	NET RATE					Under 15 years No.	Rate per 1,000 Net Births	No. At all ages	Rate
1945	4550	51	76	50	11.20	9	13	Nil	Nil	54	11.86
1946	4767	49	73	57	11.95	2	7	3	41.09	64	13.42

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Nett Deaths of RESIDENTS  
whether occurring within  
or without the district.

CAUSE OF DEATH

	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
Tuberculosis respiratory system	2	3	5
Influenza	1	-	1
Cancer of stomach and duodenum	2	-	2
Cancer of all other sites	5	2	7
Intracranial Vascular lesions	3	6	9
Heart disease	13	8	21
Bronchitis	2	2	2
Pneumonia	2	2	4
Other respiratory diseases	-	1	1
Other digestive diseases	-	1	1
Nephritis	1	-	1
Premature birth	1	-	1
Congenital malformation and birth injuries	1	-	1
Suicide		1	1
Other violent causes	1	1	2
All other causes	3	2	5
TOTALS	37	27	64





INFANT MORTALITY, 1946.

Nett Deaths from stated causes at various ages under 1 year.

CAUSES OF DEATH	Under 1 Year				Total Under one month	1-12 months				Total Deaths under one year.
	Under 1 Week	1-2 Weeks	2-3 Weeks	3-4 Weeks		1-3 months	3-6 months	6-9 months	9-12 months	
Bronchical Pneumonia	"	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Premature Birth	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Atelectases	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS					2					3





DEATHS RATE OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE

All infants per 1,000 Live Births	...	...	41.09
Legitimate Infants per 1,000			
legitimate births	...	...	44.11
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 Illegitimate			
births	...	...	Nil
Deaths from Measles	...	...	Nil
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	...	...	Nil
Deaths from whooping cough	...	...	Nil

INFECTIOUS DISEASE

In January influenza was predominant and of a severe type, four cases of pneumonia occurred.

In February the influenza epidemic still raged unabated and two further cases of influenza were notified.

March saw the influenza epidemic dying down somewhat, but three more cases of pneumonia developed, there were also two cases of mumps.

In April the influenza epidemic had almost died out, and there were no other infectious diseases.

May saw the end of the influenza epidemic, but still there were three cases of pneumonia. There was also one case of diphtheria at Brownrigg Camp contracted outside the area.

June, July, August and September were free from infectious disease with the exception of six cases of whooping cough.

In October, four cases of scarlet fever, two cases of German measles and six cases of whooping cough were notified.

In November there were eight further cases of whooping cough, and twelve more in December, but apart from these there were no other infectious diseases in these two months.

Apart from the influenza epidemic in the early part of the year and the whooping cough epidemic at the end of the year there has been singularly little infectious disease in the area.

CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE

The use of modern drugs and antitoxins has proved very effective in limiting the spread of such diseases as scarlet fever and diphtheria. There can be no doubt whatever also about the value of mass immunisation of young children against diphtheria, as this disease has almost died out in the area.





DISEASE	Total cases notified	Cases admitted to hospital	Total Deaths.
Scarlet Fever	6	Nil	Nil
Diphtheria	1	1	Nil
Puerperal Fever	Nil	Nil	Nil
Pneumonia	12	Nil	4
Measles	Nil	Nil	Nil
Chicken Pox	Nil	Nil	Nil
Mumps	2	Nil	Nil
Cerebro Spinal Fever	Nil	Nil	Nil
Whooping Cough	32	Nil	Nil
German Measles	2	Nil	Nil

#### GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

Officers of the Rural District Council :-

- (1) Part-time Medical Officer of Health, Dr. G. W. L. Kirk, M.B.,  
CH.B.
- (2) Whole-time Sanitary Officer, Mr. S. Clough, M.R.San.I, M.S.I.A.

Laboratory Facilities. As in past years the County Laboratory at Newburn has rendered efficient service.

Ambulance Facilities. The local ambulance is now run under the auspices of the British Red Cross Society and covers a large part of the Rural District.

Nursing in the Home. This is very ably carried out by five district nurses. There has been some re-arrangement of districts, and to increase efficiency each nurse has been provided with a car.

Treatment Centres and Clinics. There are no treatment centres in the area. An excellent children's clinic is run on the second Thursday of each month by Dr. H. Glen Davison from Newcastle.

Hospitals. There are no hospitals in the area.





A N N U A L   R E P O R T

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- of the -

SANITARY INSPECTOR

- for the -

BELLINGHAM RURAL DISTRICT

- for the -

YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1946.

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## SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

### SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

#### 1. WATER

The Council during the year have given active consideration to water supplies for the whole Rural Area. Decisions were implemented by the appointment of Consulting Engineers, Messrs. D.Balfour & Sons, Newcastle.

Some 20 isolate holdings and farms have been provided with new individual supplies.

#### 2. DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

The position at Bellingham and Work remains the same. The sewage works in both cases are old and obsolete. The position and methods of improvement will be covered in Messrs. D.Balfour & Son's Report.

Works or sewerage and drainage are contemplated for the Council's new housing schemes at Otterburn and Kirkwhelpington.

#### 3. RIVERS AND STREAMS

Temporary pollution occurs in rivers and streams where properties are situate in close proximity, due to lack of adequate scavenging facilities.

#### 4. CLOSET ACCOMMODATION

Some nine privies have been abolished and eight water closets provided. In the large communities the main hold up is due to inadequate water and sewerage facilities which deny the provision of conversion schemes.

#### 5. PUBLIC CLEANSING

Much work and energy has been put into this branch of Public Health Services. Data concerning every property in the Rural Area together with a scheme for the purchase of a lorry have been submitted to the Council, but with all the energy expended no solution has, as yet, been evolved or implemented.

#### 6. SHOPS

Being a scattered Rural Area, there are a very limited number of shops apart from the larger communities, where ventilation and sanitation is satisfactory.

#### 7. SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

This has been maintained and a tabular statement is appended at the end of the Report.

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### INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

#### 1. MILK SUPPLIES

In the Rural Area there are 74 dairy farms all of which are subject to routine inspection and periodic sampling. During the year six byres for mild production have been reconditioned. Eight new dairies have been provided.





## 2. MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

Central slaughtering still obtains at Hexham. Food shops and food preparing premises receive regular inspection.

## 3. ADULTERATION

During the year no adverse reports have been received, after sampling.

## 4. CHEMICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF FOOD

Facilities for this work exist at the Northumberland County Council Laboratory at Newburn.

## SLAUGHTER HOUSES AND MEAT INSPECTION

Number of slaughter houses on the register - now used as meat stores .....	6
Number of licensed slaughtermen .....	8
Inspections made (including meat shops) .....	105

## FOOD INSPECTION

<u>Unsound food</u>	<u>Surrendered</u>
1. Beef	7 lbs.
2. Fruit	16 lbs.
3. Canned Goods	56 lbs.
4. Bacon	11 lbs.
5. Cheese	51 lbs.

## FACTORIES (INCLUDING PORKSHOPS AND BAKEHOUSES)

On the register at the end of the year .....	20
(a) Factories with power .....	8
(b) Factories without power .....	11
Visits of inspection .....	24

## SHOPS ACT, 1934

Visits of inspection .....	187
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## NOTICES

Under the Public Health Acts (Intimatory) .....	996
Under the Public Health Acts (Statutory) .....	2
Under the Housing Acts (Intimatory) .....	214
Under the Housing Acts (Statutory) .....	2
Under the Milk and Dairies Order (Intimatory) .....	74
Under the Milk and Dairies Order (Statutory) .....	-

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SANITARY INSPECTOR'S SUMMARY FOR THE YEAR ENDING

31st DECEMBER 1946

NUISANCES

Complaints received .....	108
Nuisances observed .....	140
Nuisances abated .....	82
Nuisances unabated or work in hand .....	38
Sanitary Conveniences repaired .....	74
Drains tested .....	36
New Drains laid .....	24
New gully traps fixed .....	37
New chambers constructed .....	42
Septic tanks and filters constructed (private) .....	18
New water closets fixed .....	39
Houses disinfested .....	3

WATER SUPPLIES

Houses visited with special reference to water supplies	108
Houses provided with supplies from new public mains	3
Old connections with service pipe renewed	47
Houses provided with new supplies (private)	20

HOUSING

Houses inspected under the Housing Acts .....	206
Number of inspections made .....	380
Housing recorded under Consolidated Regulations .....	-
Number of houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation-	
Houses (not including the above) with structural or other defects .....	87
Houses-defects remedied .....	82
Representations for closing or demolition .....	-
Closing Orders served .....	-
Demolition Orders served .....	-
Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of demolition orders.....	-
Cases of overcrowding relieved during the year .....	-
Houses inspected under Public Health Acts .....	142
Number of visits made under the Public Health Acts .	307
Number of houses with defects amounting to nuisances	56
Number of houses with defects (nuisances) abated ...	56

SEWERING

Inspections (including interviews with owners of properties regarding the provision of new sanitary arrangements and drainage connections .....	103
Private drains connected to public sewers .....	15
Privies converted to water carriage system .....	9
New water closets built .....	8
New gully traps fixed .....	52
New chambers constructed .....	42

DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS

On the register at the end of the year (Producers and Wholesales, 7, Producers and Retailers 67 .....	74
Visits of inspection .....	349
Number of registered premises (including new cowsheds structurally improved) .....	6

SYDNEY CLOUGH M.S.I.A.

Sanitary Inspector.



